

# News Release



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## MAXFIELD, MIDNIGHT BOURBON TOP EARLY CLARK PROBABLES

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Sunday, Nov. 14, 2021)** – Nominations to the Grade I, \$750,000 Clark presented by Norton Healthcare closed Saturday. The full list of nominees will be released in the upcoming days but here is a look at some of the known likely runners for the 147<sup>th</sup> renewal of the 1 1/8-mile race, according to Churchill Downs assistant racing secretary and stakes coordinator **Dan Bork**.

- **Code of Honor** (19-7-5-2—\$2,951,320) – **Will Farish**'s homebred Code of Honor dominated the \$1.25 million Travers (GI) in 2020 for his first Grade I victory. The 5-year-old son of Noble Mission (GB) trained by **Shug McGaughey** recently finished second behind fellow Clark probable **Independence Hall** in the Fayette (GII) at Keeneland. Code of Honor finished second in last year's Clark to **Bodexpress**.
- **Independence Hall** (13-5-2-2—\$874,000) – **Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners**, **Twin Creeks Racing Stable**, **WinStar Farm**, and **Kathleen and Robert Verratti**'s three-time stakes winner Independence Hall enters the Clark following a dominating 7 1/4-length score over the "sloppy" surface in the \$200,000 Fayette (GII) at Keeneland. The striking dark bay son of Constitution, conditioned by **Michael McCarthy**, finished second behind eventual Breeders' Cup Classic (GI) champion **Knicks Go** in the \$400,000 Lukas Classic (GIII).
- **King Fury** (11-4-1-1—\$599,449) – Three-time stakes winner King Fury finished third in the Fayette last out for trainer **Kenny McPeek**. Owned by **Fern Circle Stables** and **Three Chimneys Farms**, the chestnut son of Curlin will attempt to become the first 3-year-old to win the Clark since **Gun Runner** in 2016.
- **Maxfield** (10-7-2-1—\$1,550,902) – Owned by **Godolphin** and trained by **Brendan Walsh**, the multiple graded stakes winner will attempt to notch an elusive Grade I victory to his résumé. The talented 4-year-old son of Street Sense is a perfect four-for-four at Churchill Downs including a convincing 3 1/4-length victory in the \$600,000 Stephen Foster (GII). Horses have won both the Stephen Foster and Clark seven times but it has not been accomplished in the same year.
- **Midnight Bourbon** (12-2-5-3—\$1,094,920) – **Winchell Thoroughbreds**' Midnight Bourbon was prominent in this year's Triple Crown campaign. The 3-year-old son of Tiznow trained by **Steve Asmussen** finished sixth in the \$3 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (GI) and second in the \$1 million Preakness (GI). Following an eventful run in the \$1 million Haskell (GI) where he clipped heels and did not finish, Midnight Bourbon sports back-to-back runner-up efforts in the \$1.25 million Travers (GI) and \$1 million Pennsylvania Derby (GI). This will be his first race against elders.
- **Militarist** (8-2-0-2—\$91,630) – **J. and J. Stable** and **Priscilla Vaccarezza**'s two-time winner Militarist finished fifth in the Fayette at odds of 39-1 for trainer **Carlo Vaccarezza**. The longshot hope cruised to an impressive 1 3/4-length win over the turf at Ellis Park three months ago.

Entries to the Nov. 26 Clark will close Sunday, Nov. 21. The Clark is one of six stakes events on closing week of the 132<sup>nd</sup> Fall Meet. One day prior to the Clark, on Thanksgiving, **Juddmonte**'s multiple graded stakes winner **Bonny South** is slated to battle with defending champion **Envoutante** in the \$500,000 Falls City (GII). On Saturday, Nov. 27, the \$400,000 Kentucky Jockey Club (GII) and \$400,000 Golden Rod (GII) will award points to the Top 4 finishers on a 10-4-2-1 scale for the Road to the Kentucky Derby and Road to the Kentucky Oaks. The "Stars of Tomorrow II" program will also feature the inaugural runnings of the \$200,000 Lively Shively and \$200,000 Fern Creek.

**DREAM SUPREME QUEEN BELL'S THE ONE HEADS FOR 45-DAY 'VACATION' BEFORE 6-YEAR-OLD CAMPAIGN** – Lothenbach Stables' **Bell's the One**, the one-length winner of Saturday's \$300,000 Dream Supreme, is slated to have 45 days off before beginning training toward a 6-year-old campaign, according to trainer **Neil Pessin**.

"She's a special mare to all of us and it's great that she'll be back next year," Pessin said. "We'll give her a vacation and then target the (Breeders' Cup) Filly & Mare Sprint at Keeneland."

Bell's the One's victory in the Dream Supreme gave her jockey **Corey Lanerie** a special 47<sup>th</sup> birthday present.

"I'd say this was a pretty good birthday present," Lanerie said. "It was great that the owners were here to celebrate as well."

Bell's the One was originally set to duel with rival **Sconsin** for the sixth time but the 4-year-old filly was scratched by trainer **Greg Foley**.

"(Sconsin) is doing fine but she wasn't acting like herself to run against these type of horses," Foley said. "Hopefully next year we'll get to run against Bell's the One again."

Bell's the One earned a 94 Brisnet Speed Rating for her victory Saturday.

**CHILUKKI STAKES PROBABLES** – Saturday's featured race is the 36<sup>th</sup> running of the \$300,000 Chilukki (Grade III) at one mile for fillies and mares 3-years-old and up. Here is the likely field, according to Churchill Downs' assistant racing secretary and stakes coordinator **Dan Bork**: **Matera** (trainer Brad Cox), **Pass the Plate** (Paul McGee), **Princess Causeway** (Ian Wilkes) and **She Can't Sing** (Chris Block).

Entries for Saturday's card will take place Wednesday.

**BENEFIT FOR THE BACKSIDE DAY AT THE RACES IS FRIDAY** – The **Backside Learning Center**, an organization dedicated to building community and enriching the lives of equine workers and families at Churchill Downs, will hold its largest annual fundraiser, "Benefit for the Backside: A Day at the Races" on Friday at Churchill Downs.

The event is sold out, but the Backside Learning Center is hosting an online silent auction with many unique horseracing and other hard to find items and experiences, including a year-long membership to Louisville Thoroughbred Society, a private tour of Spendthrift Farm, AirBnB experiences, top-shelf bourbon packages and much more. In addition, the Backside Learning Center will conduct a "Thurby Suite for 40" raffle drawing including food and drink (a \$9,000 value).

The Backside Learning Center plans to host several Facebook Lives at the event to present their transformative work with equine workers and families and will recognize participating families as well as a volunteer who has demonstrated an extraordinary level of dedication to develop young leaders.

Interested parties can join the online auction, purchase a raffle ticket for a "Thurby Suite for 40" or donate by visiting [www.BenefitForTheBackside.com](http://www.BenefitForTheBackside.com).

**TV SCHEDULE** – Racing from Churchill Downs will air each race day on the Churchill Downs LIVE app. The app is available free of charge on streaming services such as Amazon, Apple TV and Roku. Most races also will be covered on the Fox Sports family of networks as part of "America's Day at the Races." Here is the updated TV schedule for racing this week:

- Sunday: 2-5:30 p.m., Fox Sports 2
- Wednesday: 1-6 p.m., Fox Sports 2
- Thursday: 12-6 p.m., Fox Sports 2
- Friday: 12-6 p.m., Fox Sports 2
- Saturday: 11:30 a.m. – 6 p.m., Fox Sports 2
- Sunday, Nov. 21: 11:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Fox Sports 2 | 4-6 p.m. Fox Sports 1

**DOWN THE STRETCH** – Racing continued Sunday at Churchill Downs for a nine-race program that began at 1 p.m. There was an \$83,905 jackpot carryover in the 20-cent Derby City 6 that spanned Races 4-9. ... Following dark days on Monday and Tuesday, racing will continue Wednesday-Sunday with first posts of 1 p.m. ... The 2021 season finale of "Inside Churchill Downs" will air Friday at 6 p.m. on ESPN 680/105.7. The show is streamed live online at [www.espnouisville.com](http://www.espnouisville.com). ... For more information about the Fall Meet, visit [www.churchilldowns.com](http://www.churchilldowns.com).

## **ABOUT CHURCHILL DOWNS RACETRACK**

Churchill Downs Racetrack ("CDRT"), the world's most legendary racetrack, has been the home of The Kentucky Derby, the longest continually held annual sporting event in the United States, since 1875. Located in Louisville, CDRT features a series of themed race days during Derby Week, including the Kentucky Oaks, and conducts Thoroughbred horse racing during three race meets in the Spring, September, and the Fall. CDRT is located on 175 acres and has a one-mile dirt track, a 7/8-mile turf track, a stabling area, and provides seating for approximately 60,000 guests. The saddling paddock and the stable area has barns sufficient to accommodate 1,400 horses and a 114-room dormitory for backstretch personnel. CDRT also has a year-round simulcast wagering facility. [www.ChurchillDowns.com](http://www.ChurchillDowns.com).